The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REM herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. Of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MP 1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on May 2 2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-6 and 10-21. 3. The drawings filed on 08 March 2002 are accepted by the Examiner 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U a) All b) Some* c) None of the: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received copies of the priority documents have been received: 1. Certified copies of the certified copies of the priority documents International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received: Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this connoted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of the THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE. 5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reasoned. (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Pate 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date	The F. Hook The cover sheet with a MAINS) CLOSED in the appropriate communication is subsection in the subsection in the subsection is subsection. This application is subsection in the subsection in Application in the subsection in the subsecti	nis application. If not included cation will be mailed in due course. sject to withdrawal from issue at the fig. (f).	THIS
James The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAIRE NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.) of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MP 1. A This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on May 2. 2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-6 and 10-21. 3. The drawings filed on 08 March 2002 are accepted by the Examinet 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U a) All b) Some* c) None of the: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received: 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received: 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received: Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this connoted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of the THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE. 5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason. 6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submited. Including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Pate 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date	The F. Hook The cover sheet with a MAINS) CLOSED in the appropriate communication is subsection in the subsection in the subsection is subsection. This application is subsection in the subsection in Application in the subsection in the subsecti	Art Unit 3752 the correspondence address nis application. If not included cation will be mailed in due course. eject to withdrawal from issue at the	THIS
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REM herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. Of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MP 1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on May 2 2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-6 and 10-21. 3. The drawings filed on 08 March 2002 are accepted by the Examiner 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U a) All b) Some* c) None of the: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received copies of the priority documents have been received: 1. Certified copies of the certified copies of the priority documents International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received: Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this connoted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of the THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE. 5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reasoned. (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Pate 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date	the cover sheet with a MAINS) CLOSED in the appropriate communication is subject to the subject of the subject	the correspondence address nis application. If not included cation will be mailed in due course. nject to withdrawal from issue at the	THIS
Air claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REM herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MP 1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on May 2 2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-6 and 10-21. 3. The drawings filed on 08 March 2002 are accepted by the Examinet 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U a) All b) Some* c) None of the: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been rec 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been rec 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received: Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this con noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of the THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE. 5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason: 3. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submited. Including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Pate 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendin Paper No./Mail Date	MAINS) CLOSED in the appropriate communication is subset in 1308. 18. 2004. S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (continuous) in Application National Institution In Institution In Institution In Institution Insti	nis application. If not included cation will be mailed in due course. sject to withdrawal from issue at the fig. (f).	THIS initiative
 2.	r. .S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (ceived. ceived in Application N	No	
3. ☐ The drawings filed on 08 March 2002 are accepted by the Examiner 4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the: 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received: 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received: 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents I International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received: ☐————————————————————————————————————	.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (ceived. seived in Application N	No	
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U a) All b) Some* c) None of the: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been rec 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been rec 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents international Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received: Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this connoted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of the THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE. 5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reasonable. 6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submited. Including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Pate 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment Paper No./Mail Date	.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (ceived. seived in Application N	No	
a) All b) Some* c) None of the: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received: 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received: 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents international Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received: Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this connoted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of the THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE. 5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reasonable. 6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submited. Including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Pate 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment Paper No./Mail Date	ceived. ceived in Application N	No	
noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of the THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE. 5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reasoned. 6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submited as including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patement of Paper No./Mail Date (b) Including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendmine Paper No./Mail Date			ı the
3. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be subm (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Pate 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendm Paper No./Mail Date	nmunication to file a r iis application.	reply complying with the requiremer	its
 (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Pate 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment Paper No./Mail Date 	the attached EXAMII (s) why the oath or de	NER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE (claration is deficient.)F
 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment Paper No./Mail Date 	nitted.		
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendan Paper No./Mail Date	nt Drawing Review (F	PTO-948) attached	
Paper No./Mail Date			
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 27 CED 4 04/a)) ab-	ient / Comment or in t	the Office action of	
ldentifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) sho each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header	uld be written on the dr	rawings in the front (not the back) of	
 DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIC attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE 	LOGICAL MATERIA	AL must be submitted. Note the	
Attachment(s) . Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) . Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	6. Interview Summ	nal Patent Application (PTO-152) nary (PTO-413),	
	Paper No./Mail 7. ⊠ Examiner's Ame	I Date	
Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit	8.	tement of Reasons for Allowance James F. Hook Primary Examiner Art Unit: 3752	

Application/Control Number: 10/023,431

Art Unit: 3752

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kristin Kohler on June 25, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

In claim 10, line 9, delete "." at end of sentence and insert therefore
---; and a circumferential skirt formed around said end piece and having a plurality
of solid connection tabs spaced circumferentially around said circumferential skirt.—

In claim 21, line 3, delete "hol" and insert therefore -hole--.

The above amendment was required to provide all the limitations of canceled claim 1 into claim 10 as was required to make it allowable, and to correct either a typographical error or a lost letter during the fax transmission, where it is clear that it should read a receiving hole as such is the term used in claim 10 from which it depends.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James F. Hook whose telephone number is (703) 308-

Art Unit: 3752

2913. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Wednesday, work at home Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Mar can be reached on (703) 308-2087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James F. Hook Primary Examiner Art Unit 3752

JFH